**JOURNAL WRITING**

Keeping a journal during your placement is a critical part of your learning experience. Writing a journal encourages you to reflect upon your experiences, to process them more fully, and deepens your understanding of the experience.

A journal entry will be written for each day that you are at your placement site and will be based on significant events that occur during the time that you are at the site.



Your journal should **NOT** be merely **DESCRIPTIVE**. Yes, you will keep a log of the dates and times you were at the site and describe what you observed – but it needs to be **MORE**! It needs to be **ANALYTICAL**!

* Focus your writing on specific events, insights, and perspectives that you have about the day and what you experienced.
* Your journal should be used to deepen your understanding of the day.
* You have to be willing to think beyond the facts. The following questions may help you to do that:
  + - What are some probable causes of what I experienced?
    - What are some consequences to the event?
    - What are some other implications of what occurred?
    - What are some solutions to problems that arose?
    - How did you respond to things you encountered and how do you wish you responded? Why?
* Integrate what you are observing/learning at your internship site with what you have already learned in, or are currently learning, in the classroom. Using course materials in your analysis will not only strengthen your learning experience at the placement site – but also in the CLASSROOM.

When you write descriptively, you need to include:

* + What happened?
  + What did you do?
  + Work performed
  + Connections to classroom instruction
  + Skills/lessons learned

*YOU SHOULD HAVE PAPER AND A WRITING INSTRUMENT WITH YOU SO THAT YOU CAN TAKE NOTES DURING THE DAY SO YOU DON’T FORGET ANYTHING*!

**DO YOUR JOURNAL ENTRY THAT DAY AND AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. YOU NEED TO BE SURE THAT YOUR JOURNALING IS ACCURATE AND DELAYED WRITING CAN PREVENT THAT.**